

**WSDOT**  
**Commerce Corridor Feasibility Study**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**July 26, 2004**

**Attendees:**

Dan O'Neal (WSDOT, FMSIB)

Arno Hart (Wilbur Smith Assoc)

Barbara Ivanov (WSDOT)

Elizabeth Stratton (WSDOT)

Rosemary Siipola (CWCOG/SWRTPO)

Senator Dan Swecker

Tom Jones (Wilbur Smith Assoc)

Joy Dopita (WSDOT)

Linda Mullen (WSDOT)

Chair Dan O'Neal opened the meeting at 8:05am at the WSDOT Tacoma Maintenance Facility.

Debrief Public Forum:

Senator Swecker said that the next questions include:

- If political opposition in eastern counties is high, is an expansion of I-5 (truck-only lane) technically feasible?
- Is there a demand for an energy corridor in the eastern part of the state?
- Are current corridors sufficient for the long run? If not, then government must act for the future.

Dan O'Neal said that the concept is bound to generate public opposition and the study will address that and technical issues. He asked Senator Swecker if his proposal intends to shape future demand, as well as follow current projections.

Communications:

Linda Mullen reviewed plan and next steps.

Barbara Ivanov, on behalf of WSDOT SW Region, asked Wilbur Smith to remove the leg to Columbia Gorge on the alignment map. Senator Swecker said that it should remain; he said that the study outcomes should include logical extensions such as the southerly I-5 route. He agreed to call Oregon legislators and introduce the study concept.

Barbara reported on the study budget, use of funds to date, and recommended a \$25,000 allocation to add a communications consultant. The Steering Committee agreed.

Barbara said that the City of Bellingham has formally requested a public meeting. Senator Swecker will follow up with Representative Ericksen before a decision is made.

Rosemary Siipola said that the study should feed into the WTP.

Arno Hart led a discussion of preliminary results.

Adjourned at 10:15am.